

## Field Code Sheet – VWMP Raptor Nesting Survey

### Iowa Naturemapping (NM) Codes for Raptors

family	scientific name	common name	NM code
Cathartidae	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	turkey vulture	TUVU*
Accipitridae	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	osprey	OSPR
	<i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>	Mississippi kite	MIKI
	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	bald eagle	BAEA
	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	northern harrier	NOHA
	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	sharp-shinned hawk	SSHA
	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's hawk	COHA
	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	red-shouldered hawk	RSHA
	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	broad-winged hawk	BWHA
	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Swainson's hawk	SWHA
	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	red-tailed hawk	RTHA
	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American kestrel	AMKE
Falconidae	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	merlin	MERL
	<i>Tyto alba</i>	barn owl	COBO
Tytonidae	<i>Otus asio</i>	eastern screech owl	EASO
Strigidae	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	great horned owl	GHOW
	<i>Speotyto cunicularia</i>	burrowing owl	BUOW
	<i>Strix varia</i>	barred owl	BAOW
	<i>Asio otus</i>	long-eared owl	LEOW
	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	short-eared owl	SEOW

\*turkey vultures are no longer in the raptor group, but can still be considered in this survey; peregrine information should be submitted using the *Peregrine Falcon Survey Form*

### Nest Location Codes

<b>BR</b> – bridge	<b>OS</b> – other structure (road sign, utility pole, etc.)
<b>CB</b> – cliff/bluff	<b>TR</b> – tree
<b>NX</b> – nest box (any location)	<b>TW</b> – tower (smoke stack, radio, TV, etc.)
<b>OB</b> – in/on occupied building	<b>UB</b> – in/on unoccupied building
<b>OG</b> – on ground	

### Nest Type Codes

<b>CA</b> – cavity	<b>SC</b> – scrape
<b>CP</b> – constructed platform	<b>SN</b> – stick nest
<b>NB</b> – nest box	<b>SV</b> – surrounding vegetation
<b>RSN</b> – reused stick nest	

### HABITAT Division - Vegetated

Class	Formation (NM Habitat)	NM Code
<b>Forest</b> (Generally, >60% canopy cover, crowns interlocking)	Coniferous plantation or shelterbelt-Forest	CPLF
	Mixed plantation or shelterbelt-Forest	MPLF
	Coniferous/Pine-Forest	CNPF
	Coniferous/Deciduous - Forest	CNDF
	Evergreen/Red Cedar-Forest	EVCF
	Lowland Deciduous-Forest	LODF
	Upland Deciduous-Forest	UPDF
	Permanently flooded lowland deciduous-Forest	FLDF
	Lowland Deciduous Island	LODI
	Maintained parkland	MPRK
<b>Woodland</b> (Open 25-60% canopy cover)	Deciduous plantation or orchard	DCPL
	Coniferous plantation or shelterbelt-Woodland	CPLW

<b>Shrubland</b>	Mixed plantation or shelterbelt-Woodland	MPLW
	Coniferous/Pine-Woodland	CNPW
	Coniferous/Deciduous – Woodland	CNDW
	Evergreen/Red Cedar-Woodland	EVCW
	Lowland Deciduous-Woodland	LODW
	Upland Deciduous-Woodland	UPDW
	Permanently flooded lowland deciduous-Woodland	FLDW
	Upland Deciduous-Shrubland	UPSH
	Lowland Deciduous-Shrubland	LOSH
	Shrub marsh - Shrubland	WTSH
<b>Herbaceous</b>	Tallgrass prairie	TALP
	Midgrass prairie	MIDP
	Tallgrass savanna	TLSV
	Midgrass savanna	MDSV
	Sedge meadow (seasonally flooded)	SEG
	Wetland/vegetated wetland (cattails, bulrush, etc.)	WTCT
	Wetland/floating leaved plants	WTFL
	Wetland/dry	WTDR
	Fen wetland	FEN
	Cool-season grass (brome, Kentucky Bluegrass)	CSGR
<b>Sparse Vegetation</b>	Golf course	GOLF
	Cemetery	CEM
	Open bluff/cliff	BLF
	Algific talus slopes	ALG
	Sparsely vegetated sand/mud flats	MUD
<b>Constructed/Artificial</b>	Lake shore	LKSH
	Non-farm yards	NFYD
	Farm yards	FMYD
	Schoolyards	SCHL
	Commercial/industrial	COMI
<b>Agricultural Lands</b>	Residential	RESD
	Business Park	BUSP
	Row crop (corn, soybeans, oats)	ROWC
	Pasture/hay/CRP	PAST
	Woody fencerow	WDFC
	Grass fencerow	GRFC
	Mixed woody/grass fencerow	MXFC
	Grassed waterway or terrace	GRSS
	Drainage ditch	DICH

*Division - Water*

<b>Class</b>	<b>Formation (NM Habitat)</b>	<b>NM Code</b>
<b>Open Water</b>	Pond/impoundment	POND
	Open water (reservoir or lake)	OPNW
	River/stream (bordered by trees/shrubs)	RIVR
	Open riverine (bordered by non-woody vegetation)	ORIV

## **DNR VWMP – Raptor Nesting Instructions**

**Materials:** Binoculars, Spotting scope, Data sheet, Instructions Field code sheet, Pencil, Field guide.

### **DO ONCE**

***Sections On Data Sheet: Observer, Nest Location Information, Nest Site Landowner***

#### **Step 1: Find a Nest**

**Species of Interest:** turkey vulture, bald eagle, Cooper's hawk, red-shouldered hawk, broad-winged hawk, Swainson's hawk, red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, barn owl, eastern screech owl, great horned owl, barred owl, Mississippi kite, northern harrier, sharp-shinned hawk, burrowing owl, long-eared owl, short-eared owl, and ospreys.

#### **Tips to Find a Nest:**

For stick nests and cavities look in early spring/winter before leaf out.

Look and listen for raptor displays, particularly 2 together .

Look for a concentration of raptor sign: feathers, pellets, fecal material.

#### **Step 2: Map the Nest – Getting UTM coordinates**

1. Mark the location of nest on a map (sportsman's atlas, topo, plat map) and make note of the surrounding landscape. With the plat map or sportsman's atlas you can easily determine your Tier (Township), range and section which you can then plug into [ortho.gis.iastate.edu](http://ortho.gis.iastate.edu). You can then pinpoint the nest location here and get your UTM coordinates.
2. Mark the nest location on a detailed map and send to the wildlife diversity program and we will determine your UTM coordinates. 1436 255<sup>th</sup> St., Boone, IA 50036
3. Mark nest location with GPS unit –make sure it is recording UTMS and is using the NAD 83 datum.

### **DO ONCE EACH YEAR**

***Sections On Data Sheet: Observations, Nest Site***

#### **Step 3: Collect Species and Habitat Data**

1. The first year note the species using the nest and also the predominant habitat surrounding the nest as well as details about the tree (if any) the nest is in and what type of nest is being used.
2. In following years note any changes to the habitat and nest data. This will likely not change from year to year so it is a good idea to keep a record of this so you stay consistent – you may even want to create copies of the data sheet with this already filled in.

### **DO UP TO 3 TIMES EACH YEAR**

***Sections On Data Sheet: Nest Success***

#### **Step 4: Collect Nest Activity and Success Data**

1. Visit the nest up to and no more than 3 times during the nesting season (will be dependent on what species is using the nest.) Maintain a proper distance - be careful not to disturb birds!!
2. Spend ~ 30 minutes observing the nest at each visit.
3. At each visit record:

# Adults:	0, 1 or 2
# Young:	# of young if known, 0 if you know nest has failed without producing young, blank if you do not know # of young
# Fledglings:	# of young if known, 0 if you know nest has failed without producing fledglings, blank if you do not know # of fledglings.

**ENTER (<http://programs.iowadnr.gov/vwmp/default.asp>) OR SEND IN DATA BY OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>:**

**Wildlife Diversity Program, Attn: VWMP, 1436 255<sup>th</sup> St., Boone, IA 50036**